Kohn Wants Judge to Resign

Gives Comment on Arrest of Haggerty

Aaron M. Kohn, the managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, said Thursday that Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. should resign his post in light of his arrest in a police vice raid Wednesday night.

"I would hope that, if he did not resign, our state attorney general, state Supreme Court and organized bar would put into effect the machinery which would rid ourselves of those who are destroying our faith in the judiciary," Kohn stated.

Kohn expressed this view in a question-and-answer period following a luncheon address to the New Orleans Federal Executive Association in the House of Lee Restaurant.

He said the MCC has scheduled an executive committee meeting Friday, at which time, a decision on whether to comment on the Haggerty affair will be made.

SUGGESTS PLAN

Kohn said he was sorry, the judiciary should be "degraded" by the actions of one of its members and suggested the "Missouri plan" be used in Louisiana to ensure high-caliber judiciary selections in the future.

He said the Missouri plan would involve creation of a commission which would screen applicants for judgeships and recommend three finalists. From these finalists, one would be chosen by the governor or local official to fill the vacant judgeship.

At election-time, Kohn said, a sitting judge would not have to become embroiled in politics since, under the Missouri plan, the people would vote only on whether they want to keep him as a judge or not. If the people voted yes, the judge would serve a full term; if not, the judge would be required to leave his post. The nominating process by the commission would start over again to pick a successor.

Kohn said this plan has already been adopted in several states and is turning out to be successful.

On another matter, Kohn said he and the MCC will be happy to meet with Democratic mayoral nominee Moon Landrieu to settle any differences between them.

'STILL PREMATURE'

Kohn said it is still premature for such a meeting since Landrieu has to face a Republican candidate in an April general election, and is not yet the mayor.

The dispute between Landrieu and the MCC broke out during the last week of the campaign before the Dec. 13 runoff, in which Landrieu's association with the TAC Amusement Co. was dubbed a conflice of interest.

Kohn said he hopes to meet with Landrieu and other officials to discuss "matters in the past" in the hope of achieving joint governmental-citizen action to rid the city of crime.

In his luncheon address, Kohn said private and personal ethics of public officials in Louisiana have remained unchanged since the scandals of the 1930s.

Kohn said most voters in Louisiana apparently do not mind corruption in high places just as long as their officials keep them "entertained."

On organized crime, Kohn said the omnibus crime bill passed recently by Congress has spotlighted crime as the nation's number one problem. He warned, however, that prosecution of criminals must be accompanied by crime prevention if the anti-crime program is to succeed.